

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for applying an element to a body, comprising: detecting the position of a device for preparing and/or producing a connection between said body and said element relative to the position of said body.
2. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the three-dimensional structure of said body is mapped.
3. The method as set forth in claim 1 or 2, wherein a data model of said body is generated.
4. The method as set forth in any one of the preceding claims, wherein an implant may be selected as a data model from a plurality of data models.
5. The method as set forth in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said implant is virtually positioned relative to said body.
6. The method as set forth in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a desired position of said element to be applied is determined from the position of said implant.
7. The method as set forth in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the position of connecting points between body and element is determined from the position of said element.
8. The method as set forth in any one of the preceding claims, wherein aligning said body and/or calibrating said device for preparing and/or producing a connection is implemented.
9. The method as set forth in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a connection is prepared or produced at determined connecting points.

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10. A computer program product which can be loaded directly into the internal memory of a digital computer, and comprises software code sections with which one or more steps of said method as described above can be implemented when said product is run on a computer.

11. A computer program product stored on a computer-compatible medium and comprising a computer-readable program product, prompting a computer to implement one or more of the steps in said method described above.

12. A system for applying an element to a body, comprising:

- a) a device for preparing and/or producing a connection between said element and said body; and
- b) a position detection device for detecting the position of said device, for preparing and/or producing a connection between said element and said body, and for detecting the position of said body.

13. The system as set forth in claim 12, wherein said device for preparing and/or producing a connection between said body and said element is a drill, a saw, a surface- working device, a screwing device or a nailing device.

14. The system as set forth in any one of the two preceding claims, wherein said position detection device detects optical, acoustical and/or radio signals.

15. The system as set forth in any one of the three preceding claims, wherein one or more markers are applied to said element and/or said body.

16. The system as set forth in any one of the four preceding claims, wherein a processor is provided for preparing or implementing one or more of the steps in said method as set forth in claims 1 to 9.

17. The system as set forth in any one of the five preceding claims, wherein a display device is provided, connected to said processor.

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18. The system as set forth in any one of the six preceding claims, wherein an input device is provided, connected to said processor.

19. The system as set forth in any one of the seven preceding claims, wherein a data recording device is provided for recording data during the operation of said system.

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